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CHRISTMAS CAVALCADE MIXTAPE {page 15}

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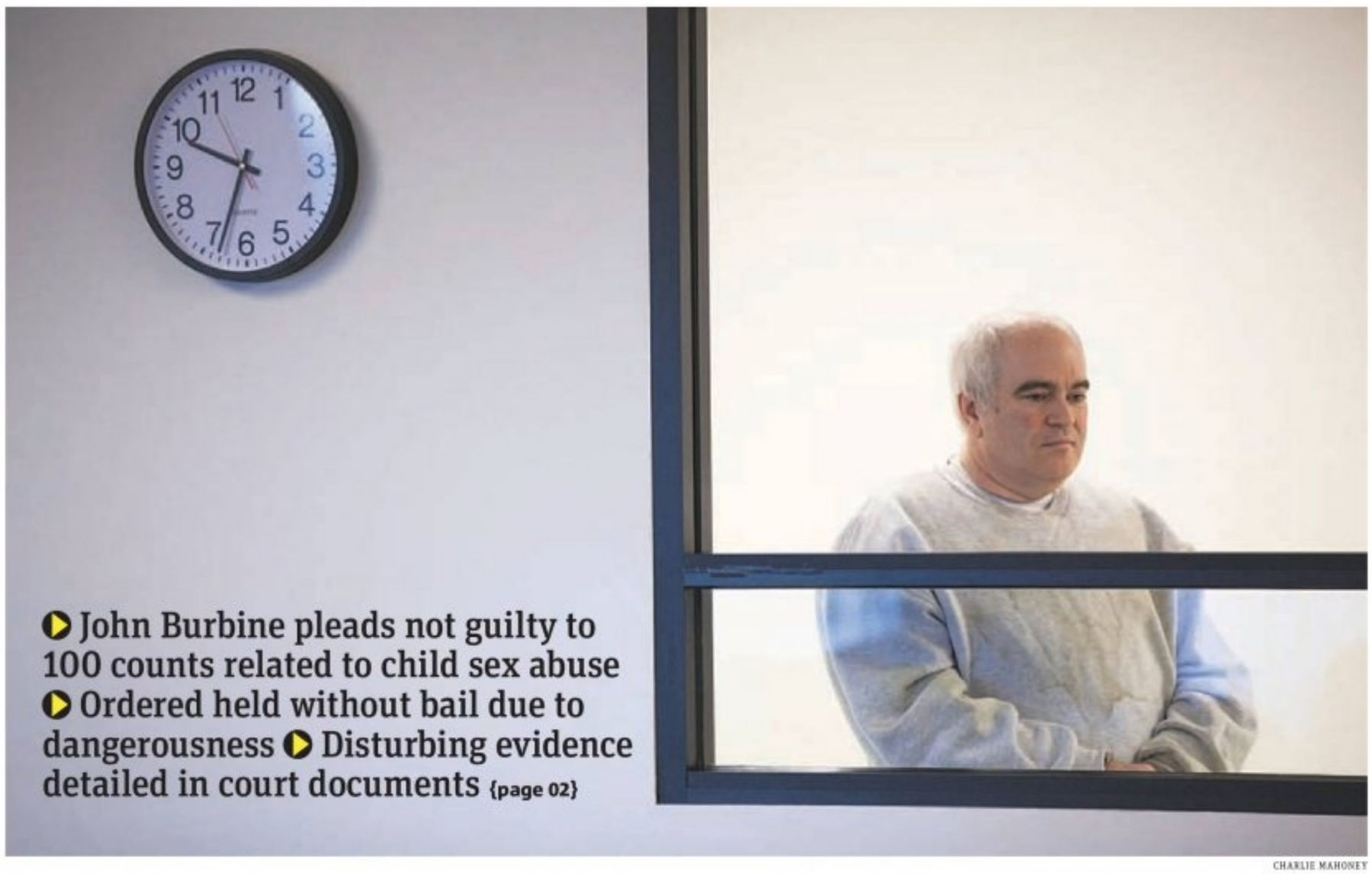


- John Burbine pleads not guilty to 100 counts related to child sex abuse
- Ordered held without bail due to dangerousness
- Disturbing evidence detailed in court documents {page 02}

CHARLIE MAHONEY

Contest. Holiday decor

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Enter your holiday decorations to win a Macy's gift card!

Metro is looking for the best and brightest holiday decoration displays! Send us your photos and we'll feature the craziest, merriest and most awe-inspiring homes on the pages of Metro and on Metro.us. One lucky winner will receive a $150 gift card to Macy's. Entries must be sent to holidaylights@metro.us by Dec. 20. Photos submitted must be recent, and decorations must still be on display at time of entry. Entries are limited to residential homes. One entry per address. Entry must include name, phone number and address. METRO

going out: music

Bosstones celebrate 30th anniversary

- Ska-punk originators return for 15th Hometown Throwdown {page 28}

holiday: gift guides

For him, her and even the wee one

- Bobbles, booze, bowties and other great last-minute buys {pages 20-24}

By the numbers

90

The owner and namesake of Mike's Pastry has died, the store announced Tuesday. Michael Mercogliano was 90 years old. The store's employees announced his death on the store's Facebook page. The North End landmark said in its message, "We will love and miss you everyday." METRO

Today's local tweet

"Why do BU students and the elderly both have no sense of balance? #questionsfromtheBline #mbta"

@LOBSTER_DOG, WHO WAS APPARENTLY DODGING FALLING BU STUDENTS AND OLD PEOPLE ON THE GREEN LINE YESTERDAY.

In the news

Baby born at 12:12 on 12/12/12

▶ The Klinkers

BOSTON. It's likely that growing up, Noelle Joy Klinker's favorite number will be 12. The newborn was delivered yesterday — 12/12/12 — at 12:12 p.m. at Massachusetts General Hospital, the medical center announced.

Baby Klinker and her mom, Colleen, were doing fine and talked with reporters yesterday. METRO

UMass: Cliff would drain $32M in funding

MASSACHUSETTS. With less than three weeks for President Barack Obama and Congress to agree on an alternative to fiscal cliff budget cuts and tax hikes, the University of Massachusetts announced yesterday that it will lose nearly $32 million in federal research funding next year unless a deal is struck that avoids cuts to defense and other domestic programs. The cuts UMass hopes to avoid are targeted at the budgets of the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, which face an 8.2-percent reduction in spending, according to UMass. METRO/SHNS

Top judge: Drug lab was 'woefully understaffed'

BOSTON. The state will be dealing with the "aftermath" of an evidence-tampering debacle at a drug lab for years, and lawmakers have more questions now than they did before they launched oversight hearings several weeks ago, Public Safety Committee Co-chairman Rep. Harold Naughton said at a hearing yesterday. Trial Court Chief Justice Robert Mulligan testified yesterday that the Hinton Lab was "woefully understaffed" before problems at the lab surfaced. SHNS

Accused molester 'violated them in every way possible'

Wakefield man pleads not guilty to 100-count indictment ◐ Lawyer says John Burbine is 'very distressed' ◐ Court orders man held without bail

The Wakefield man accused in one of the most horrific cases of child sexual abuse in Middlesex County is feeling "distressed," his lawyer said yesterday.

John Burbine, 49, was ordered held without bail during his arraignment in Middlesex Superior Court yesterday morning. He said little during the brief hearing and replied "not guilty" when a court clerk asked for his plea.

A prosecutor requested that Burbine be held without bail for 90 days because of the danger he poses and that his bail after that time be set at $1 million cash.

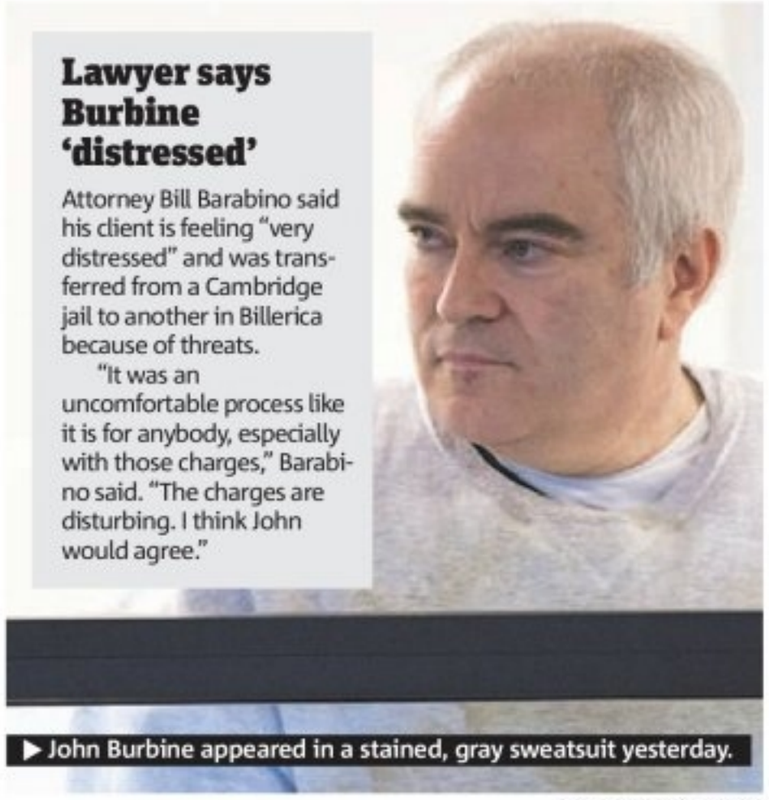
Burbine's lawyer, Bill Barabino, did not object to the bail and said Burbine would not be able to make the cash bail.

Burbine appeared in court handcuffed and wearing a gray sweatshirt. There were no relatives of the victims present during the hearing, according to the district attorney's office, which also asked for privacy on behalf of the victims' families.

Prosecutors allege that Burbine raped and assaulted 13 boys and girls between the ages of 8 days and 3 1/2 years old. He had access to the children through an unlicensed day care operated by his wife, officials said. She has been charged with running the illegal day care.

"The defendant was brought into the homes of these children by their parents to protect, care for and keep them safe, and in fact violated them in every way possible," said Katelyn Draper, an assistant district attorney.

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone last week called the case "among the most troubling and disturbing cases of child abuse ever prosecuted in Middlesex County." The 100-count indictment includes charges of aggravated forcible rape of a child, posing a child in a state of nudity and possession of child pornography.


▶ John Burbine appeared in a stained, gray sweatsuit yesterday.

CHARLIE MAHONEY/POOL PHOTO

Lawyer says Burbine 'distressed'

Attorney Bill Barabino said his client is feeling "very distressed" and was transferred from a Cambridge jail to another in Billerica because of threats.

"It was an uncomfortable process like it is for anybody, especially with those charges," Barabino said. "The charges are disturbing. I think John would agree."

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Disturbing documents

- In court documents submitted yesterday by prosecutors, Burbine was charged after authorities performed a search of his computer during the investigation.
- Authorities said they found multiple images, including photos and videos of Burbine allegedly sexually assaulting the children.
- In some of the videos, authorities said Burbine's face can be seen and one of the girls calls him by name in one video.
- At least one of the alleged incidents occurred in the changing room of a sports club. In the video, someone can be heard knocking on the changing-room door and Burbine tells the person to "wait a minute" while he continued the assault.

Couple advertised, was referred

John Burbine's wife advertised her child care facility and services in various ways, including posting fliers in sports clubs, through her own website and through a mother's parenting website, according to prosecutors.

Sometimes, people would refer the Burbines to other parents, according to court documents.

While Burbine's wife operated the child care business and met with many of the families, he would show up in her place sometimes and tell the child's parents that his wife had become ill and that he was substituting for her. METRO/MN

60 seconds with ...

"MANY TIMES, POLITICAL PARTY AND PERSONAL GAIN IS PUT BEFORE THE NEEDS OF OUR COUNTRY."

Outgoing Republican Sen. Scott Brown gave a farewell speech on the floor of the Senate yesterday. Here are some of the highlights:

▶ Brown

Although he will be replaced by Senator-elect Elizabeth Warren on Jan. 3, Brown indicated his political career is not over.
"As I've said many times before, victory and defeat is temporary," he said to his fellow senators. "Depending on what happens and where we go, all of us, we may obviously meet again."

Brown also used the speech to continue his push for bipartisanship.
"I have been and still am deeply concerned about the lack of bipartisan efforts to solve our country's most pressing economic challenges," Brown said. "Many times, political party and personal gain is put before the needs of our country."

Brown said he was proud of his accomplishments.
"To ... have the media scrutiny and all the commentary from every special interest group around the country in the middle of a Senate that was gridlocked, and to come here and have an opportunity to make a difference, and do it well without making any mistakes is something I think benefited Massachusetts, but also benefited this great country. METRO/BOSTON.COM

BLOG APP

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In the news

Cops use stun gun on woman

A Newton woman isn't having a happy holiday after she was shocked by police who used a stun gun during her arrest.

Police used the stun gun on the woman, who they said refused to leave the Pheasant Lane Mall in Nashua, N.H., just before noon on Tuesday.

▶ Li was arrested Tuesday.

Xiaojie Li, 44, was charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest, according to police.

Video of the stun-gun use was posted online Tuesday. The stun gun can be heard, followed shortly after by Li's screams when police use it on her.

Li was at the mall Tuesday to buy iPhones for her family members in China, her family told WMUR. When Apple store employees told her to leave, she didn't understand what was happening because she doesn't speak English, her family said. That's when police moved in.

Nashua Police Capt. Bruce Hansen said Li refused to leave the store after being asked to go by employees. He said she had been at the store a few days before and was told to leave then, but returned on Tuesday.

Hansen said she resisted arrest for about 15 minutes before the use of the stun gun. He added that the arrest was "fairly routine." METRO/MN

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▶ Cahill was all smiles as he left Suffolk Superior Court yesterday.

AG faces questions after Cahill deadlock

Jury unable to reach verdict on former treasurer Coakley unsure of whether to go after Cahill again

Just hours after a jury could not find former Treasurer Tim Cahill guilty, the state's top prosecutor said she still believes in the strength of the case, but offered no indication as to whether she will seek a retrial.

A Suffolk Superior Court judge declared a mistrial yesterday in Cahill's public corruption case after a jury said it was deadlocked and could not declare the 54-year-old from Quincy guilty or not guilty.

Attorney General Martha Coakley, who brought the charges against Cahill earlier this year, said her office is still determining whether to seek a retrial.

"These kinds of cases are not easy. The nature of public corruption is such that it is often behind the scenes, and it can be insidious," she said. "It is difficult to prevent and it can be very difficult to expose and prove accountability beyond a reasonable doubt to 12 jurors."

The jury spent more than seven days deliberating. On Tuesday, Cahill's co-defendant Scott Campbell was acquitted for his alleged role in the conspiracy to use public funds to boost Cahill's image through the Lottery as he ran for governor.

$1.5M Cahill is accused of using more than $1.5 million of the state Lottery budget to run an ad campaign to boost his image.

"They have not acquitted Tim Cahill," Coakely said. "Tim Cahill is in the same position he was when the indictments were returned."

After the announcement, Cahill said he felt "total vindication."

"We're fine. It's been tough, but that's all in the past. Now we're looking to go forward," he said, according to the State House News Service.

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Hubway's expansion methods to be questioned by councilor

Charles Yancey said he will ask why bike share stations are lacking in certain neighborhoods ◐ Hearing is set for today on grant for expansion

A city councilor plans to question today the way Hubway has expanded since its launch in 2011 and why bicycle-sharing stations have been left out of some neighborhoods.

"When people think of Boston, they think it ends at Massachusetts Avenue, and you have to remind people we have many dynamic neighborhoods ... that represent a critical dynamic for this program," said Councilor Charles Yancey.

Yancey chairs the Council's Committee on Environment and Human Rights that has a hearing slated for this morning on a grant awarded to the city to help expand the system.

"I'm concerned with overall distribution, and I'm going to encourage the administration to be as aggressive as possible in spreading these stations around so they're not just accessible to tourists and visitors," Yancey said, adding that he wants stations in all neighborhoods.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Is there enough Hubway to go around?

While this year the bicycle-sharing system expanded by about a dozen stations and into Brookline, Cambridge and Somerville, there were few or no stations in areas like East Boston, Mattapan, Roslindale and West Roxbury. The southern-most stations were located at the Dudley Town Common in Roxbury, at the JFK/UMass MBTA stop in Dorchester and on the peninsula at UMass Boston.

Kris Carter, interim director of Boston Bikes, said that for the system to be successful stations couldn't expand more than a half mile from one another. He said the system continues to gradually grow from the core of the city.

"If you put a station out by itself on an island, the likelihood of itself failing is incredibly strong," he said. "We'd like to be able to offer Hubway to every neighborhood in the city."

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By the numbers

Hubway has expanded since its launch in 2011, and so has the money going to fund it.

61
The number of stations in its first season

72
The number of stations in Boston during its expanded second year

$300K
The amount of the grant from the Barr Foundation that will be the subject of the hearing today

Disney. Magic

▶ Mickey Mouse and "Disney on Ice" star Tommy Do joined Jasmine Laubli, 9, at Massachusetts General Hospital yesterday for an afternoon of fun and crafts.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Disney characters visit sick kids

Performers from the "Disney on Ice" show visited pediatric patients at Massachusetts General Hospital yesterday and helped create personalized Mickey Mouse ears. The show, celebrating 100 years of magic, is at the TD Garden starting Dec. 27 and running through Dec. 30. "Disney on Ice" and Feld Entertainment also donated 100 tickets to the show for patients at Mass General. METRO

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News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

▶ F/A-18 Hornet warplanes

US military to boost Philippines presence, China army to be prepared

MANILA. U.S. and Philippine officials are expected to agree on an increase in the number of U.S. military ships, aircraft and troops rotating through the Philippines, Filipino officials said, as tensions simmer with China over its maritime claims.

Senior U.S. and Philippine officials met yesterday in Manila to discuss strengthening security and economic ties at a time of growing tension over China's aggressive sovereignty claims over vast stretches of the disputed South China Sea.

Philippine defense and diplomatic officials said they expected to see more U.S. ships, aircraft and troops for training exercises and disaster and relief operations. **REUTERS**

Pollution limits renewed with UN push for climate aid

NEW YORK. The international effort to curb global warming inched forward with an agreement that extends pollution limits under the Kyoto Protocol and calls for work on a mechanism that would pay aid for climate-related disasters.

The deal endorsed by ministers from more than 190 nations in Doha yesterday restrains fossil fuel emissions from the European Union to Australia.

It also for the first time suggests a channel for richer countries to compensate poorer ones for "loss and damage" from rising sea levels and drought. **BLOOMBERG**

North Korea launches rocket, raising nuclear arms stakes

North Korea successfully launched a rocket yesterday, boosting the credentials of its new leader and stepping up the threat the isolated and impoverished state poses to opponents.

The rocket, which North Korea says put a weather satellite into orbit, has been labeled by the United States, South Korea and Japan as a test of technology that could one day deliver a nuclear warhead capable of hitting targets as far away as the continental United States.

"The satellite has entered the planned orbit," a North Korean television news reader clad in traditional Korean garb announced, after which the station played patriotic songs with the lyrics "Chosun [Korea] does what it says."

The rocket was launched just before 10 a.m., according to defense officials in South Korea and Japan, and was more successful than a rocket launched in April that flew for less than two minutes.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Satellite image of the launch pad

North Korea followed what it said was a similar successful launch in 2009 with a nuclear test that prompted the U.N. Security Council to stiffen sanctions that it originally imposed in 2006 after the North's first nuclear test.

US reaction

The United States condemned the launch as "provocative" and a breach of U.N. rules, while Japan's U.N. envoy called for a Security Council meeting. However, diplomats say further tough sanctions are unlikely from the Security Council as China, the North's only major ally, will oppose them.

North Korea is banned from developing nuclear and missile-related technology under U.N. resolutions, although Kim Jong-un, the youthful head of state who took power a year ago, is believed to have continued the hermit nation's "military first" programs put in place by his late father, Kim Jong-il. **REUTERS**

Kim family celebration

North Korea hailed the launch as celebrating the prowess of all three members of the Kim family to rule since it was founded in 1948.

"At a time when great yearnings and reverence for Kim Jong-il pervade the whole country, its scientists and technicians brilliantly carried out his behests to launch a scientific and technological satellite in 2012, the year marking the 100th birth anniversary of President Kim Il Sung," its KCNA news agency said. Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather, was North Korea's first leader.

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In the news

Whitney Houston takes top search

SAN FRANCISCO. Whitney Houston, who died in February, edged past "Gangnam Style," "Hurricane Sandy" and "iPad 3" to top the list of global trending searches in 2012, according to Google Inc.'s annual review of popular queries.

Searches for "Gangnam Style," a music video clip by Korean singing artist Psy — with a record 930 million YouTube views — came in second. **BLOOMBERG**

Legendary sitarist Ravi Shankar dead at 92

GETTY IMAGES

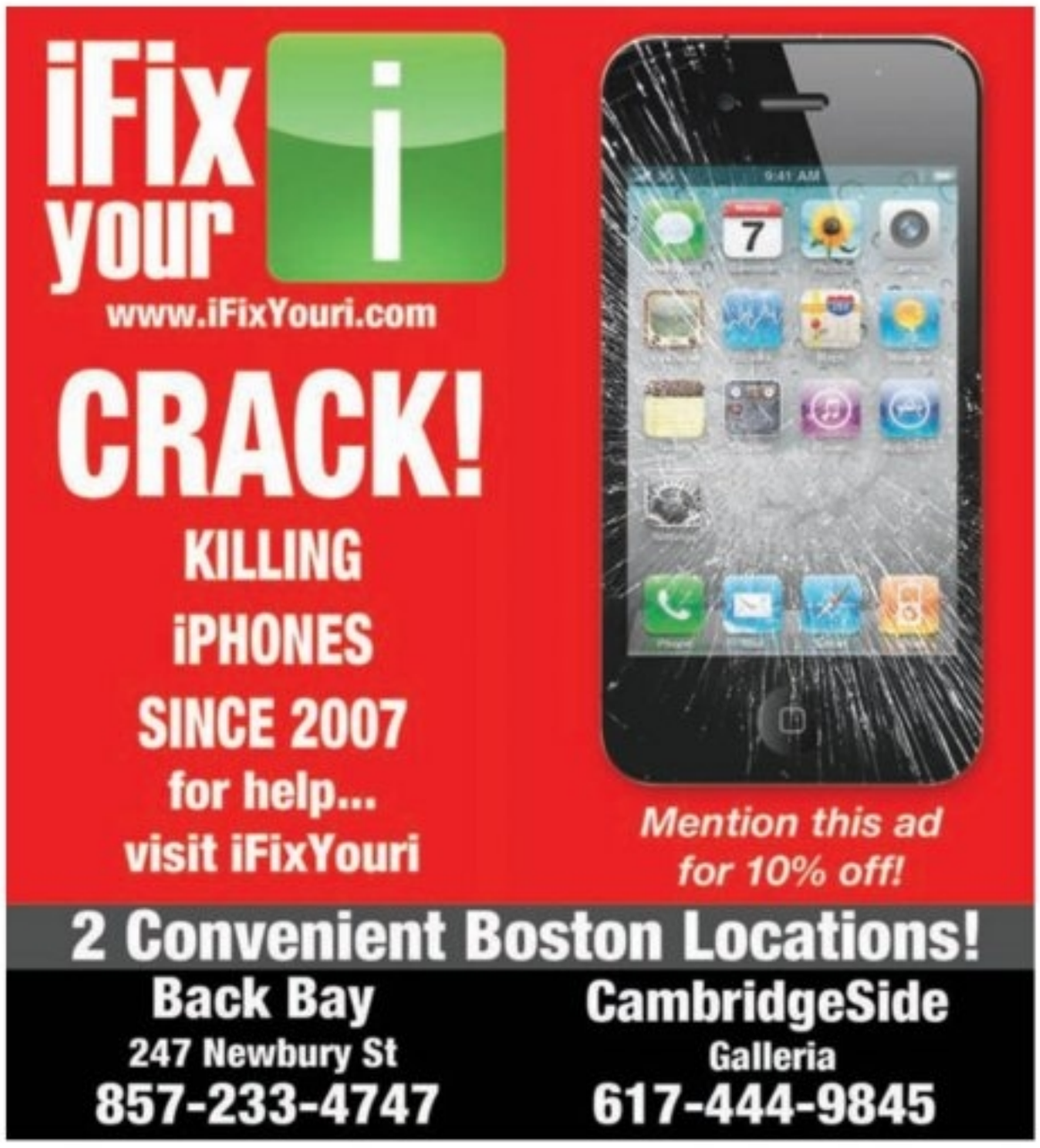
▶ Shankar

The Sitarist and composer Ravi Shankar, who helped introduce the sitar to the Western world through his collaborations with The Beatles, died in Southern California on Tuesday, his family said. He was 92.

Shankar, a three-time Grammy winner, had been in fragile health for several years and last Thursday underwent surgery, his family said in a statement.

"Although it is a time for sorrow and sadness, it is also a time for all of us to give thanks and to be grateful that we were able to have him as a part of our lives," the family said. "He will live forever in our hearts and in his music."

In India, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's office posted a Twitter message calling Shankar a "national treasure and global ambassador of India's cultural heritage." **REUTERS**



Obama reduces tax demand to $1.4T as talks inch forward

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A man dressed as Santa Claus speaks outside the Capitol before making his way to Speaker of the House John Boehner's office.

President Barack Obama reduced his demand for tax increases to $1.4 trillion from $1.6 trillion as he and House Speaker John Boehner traded another round of offers and inched toward a budget agreement.

Boehner told fellow House Republicans during a private meeting yesterday that Obama hasn't been reasonable, according to a House Republican aide who asked for anonymity and wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the discussions. Republicans believe they have been reasonable by proposing new revenue and spending cuts, Boehner said during the meeting, according to the aide.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said on the Senate floor Tuesday he was "very, very disappointed" with the lack of progress. He said Republicans will either agree to raise tax rates on top earners, "or we are going to go over the cliff" of tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to begin in January.

The two sides remain hundreds of billions of dollars apart on taxes and spending, and they continue to disagree on whether a year-end deal should include an increase in the debt limit and fresh programs to boost the economy.

If Congress doesn't act, more than $600 billion in tax increases and spending cuts, the so-called fiscal cliff, will start taking effect Jan. 1. Tax rates for income at all levels would rise, along with taxes on estates, capital gains and dividends. BLOOMBERG

Coming down

Obama's latest offer better reflects the upper boundary of tax revenue Democrats could support. His budget plan earlier this year had more than $200 billion in tax increases on dividends and estates that couldn't get through the Democrat-controlled Senate.

Auction. Sotheby's

▶ The piano was used in the movie "Casablanca" to play "As Time Goes By."

GETTY IMAGES

'Casablanca' piano may fetch $1.2M

One of the spinet pianos on which Dooley Wilson played 'As Time Goes By' in 'Casablanca' returns to the auction block this week. The 58-key upright has been estimated at $800,000 to $1.2 million by Sotheby's, where it will be offered in New York tomorrow. BLOOMBERG

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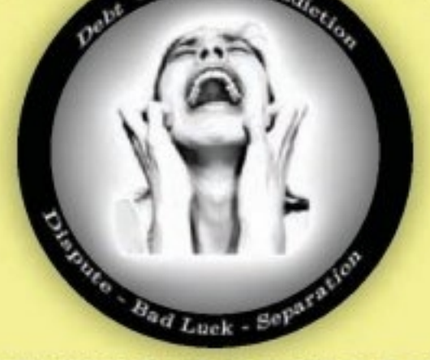

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kristin Chenoweth wants to see a scary movie, Michelle Trachtenberg has a new life philosophy, Lea Michele is keeping busy and Russell Brand is ready to tie the knot again.

@KChenoweth
No one will see Paranormal activity 4 with me.

@RealMichelleT
What would the Dowager Countess do?

@msleamichele
Another great day of work today at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow!! Xoxo

@rustyrockets
"@JonahHill: Ok so I've decided I'm going to get married soon , I'm just not sure to who yet." I'm free.

Michelle Trachtenberg

Celebrity divorces of 2012: A retrospective

Yesterday, we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012 (aw, new love!) Today we review 2012's divorces (boo, dead love!)

Katy Perry and Russell Brand

Announcement: Dec. 30 (So this was technically in 2011, but the fallout was in 2012; work with me here, folks.)
Length of marriage: 14 months
Reason: "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand explained of Perry's career to Howard Stern in July. "[The reality is] you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children." **Translation:** The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.
Contention level: Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with him. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau **John Mayer.**

So crazy they almost worked.

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett

Announcement: Sept. 6
Length of marriage: 9 years
Reason: Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.
Contention level: Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.

Tina Simpson and Joe Simpson

Announcement: They filed on Sept. 24; TMZ broke the news on Oct. 24.
Length of marriage: 34 years
Reason: Well, the divorce papers say, "The marriage has become insupportable because of discord or conflict of personalities." But the National Enquirer says it's because Simpson, a former youth minister, is gay — and even has a boyfriend. Whoa.
Contention level: Awkward. If you were Tina Simpson, wouldn't you feel funny inside?

Heidi Klum and Seal

Announcement: Jan. 23
Length of marriage: 7 years
Reason: Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."
Contention level: High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated $70 million fortune.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise

Announcement: June 29
Length of marriage: 5 years
Reason: Cruise was apparently blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly reported that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.
Contention level: Medium. The divorce was fast and furious. Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

Talking points

Lindsay Lohan quits the groupie biz

Lindsay Lohan has put an end to her gallivanting with on-the-road British boy band the Wanted, canceling a plan to follow the group to London and then Dubai, according to E! News. Some suspected the change of plans was caused by Lohan's legal troubles, but the starlet is allowed to leave the country while on probation. Perhaps it's because her recent infatuation with Wanted member **Max George** reportedly isn't all that serious. "All they're doing is hanging out," a source says.

Fox on giving birth

First-time mom **Megan Fox** is thrilled to have son **Noah** in her life, but bringing him into the world wasn't exactly her favorite experience, she admits to Access Hollywood. "I was screaming for an epidural when **Brian** was driving me to the hospital because my water broke on its own," she says. "It was level-orange alert pain." Despite the pain, though, Fox was still concerned about her appearance. "I had wet hair so I was trying to blow dry my hair before I went to the hospital," she says.

McKellan

Ian McKellan has prostate cancer

"The Hobbit" and "X-Men" star **Sir Ian McKellan** is opening up about dealing with prostate cancer. "I've had prostate cancer for six or seven years," McKellan tells the Daily Mirror, adding that it is slow-growing and hasn't made its way to other parts of his body. "When you have got it, you monitor it and you have to be careful it doesn't spread. But if it is contained in the prostate, it's no big deal."

Welch breaks up fight at concert

Florence + the Machine singer **Florence Welch** turned peacemaker at a recent concert in Scotland, halting a performance of their hit "Shake it Out" when she spotted two female fans quarreling in the front row, according to Us Weekly. "I can't have a fight in front of me while I'm singing this song! No fighting allowed," she said. "I don't know what's happening but I would quite like it to stop. It doesn't matter whose fault it is." Welch eventually hopped off the stage and hugged one of the girls who appeared to be crying, insisting that "everyone who's friends, kiss and make up and be good to each other." You heard her, readers!

Celebrities in Santa hats: A retrospective

1: Audrina Patridge went for a sexy Santa look while at a holiday giveaway event last year in Hollywood.

2: Last Thursday, a festive **Holly Madison** shopped for toys for her annual "Holly Jolly Christmas Toy Drive" to benefit Toys For Tots and The Salvation Army in Las Vegas.

3: Sean "P. Diddy" Combs went Santa Claus hard in 2003 at a fundraiser to benefit Safe Horizon, which helps victims of crime and abuse, at Rock Center Cafe in New York City.

4: Alex Rodriguez donned Old Saint Nick's cap in 2005 at a holiday party he hosted at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Miami.

5: Katy Perry was a rock 'n' roll Santa at the Y100 Jingle Ball at BankAtlantic Center in 2010 in Sunrise, Fla.

6: Rachael Ray posed with her monogrammed Santa hat during a book singing at Sur La Table in San Jose, Calif. in 2007.

7: Jennifer Love Hewitt lent a helping hand at the Los Angeles Mission on Dec. 24, 2010 in Los Angeles.

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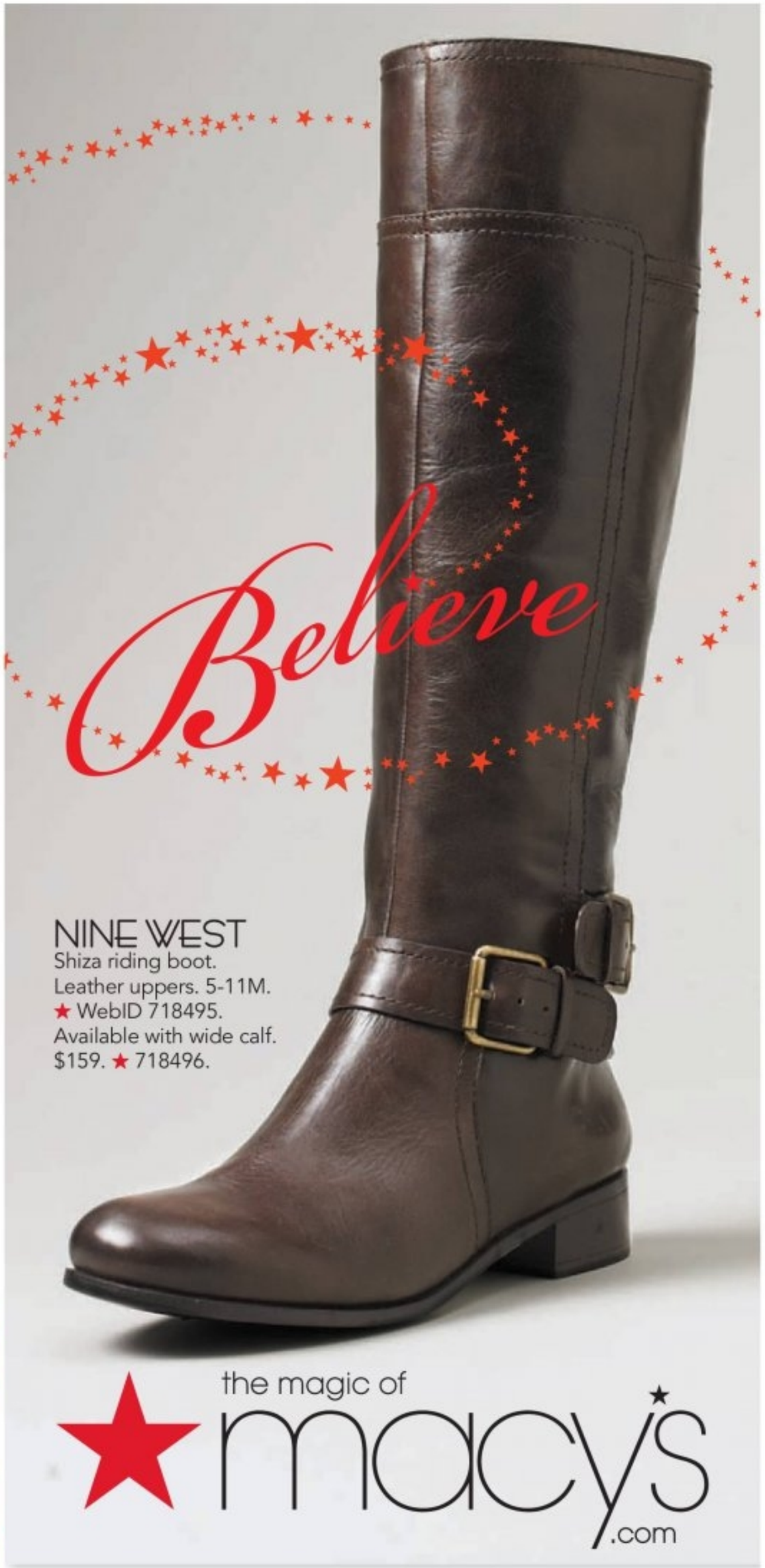

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10 REASONS TO HEAD OUT TO THE SHIRE

Must-see

1 'The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey' Peter Jackson's prequel to his wildly successful "The Lord of the Rings" franchise opens with the first of three films detailing the lives of Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey as they embark on a quest to take back The Lonely Mountain for the exiled dwarves. Shot in 3-D at a higher frame rate than the usual 24 frames per second, the film promises a more absorbing, immersive cinematic experience.

DALE ROBINETTE

▶ Martin Freeman, as hobbit Bilbo Baggins, leaves his home in the Shire in part one of this prequel to "The Lord of the Rings" films, "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

2 'Playing for Keeps' The latest Gerard Butler rom-com follows a former soccer star (Butler) who tries to salvage his relationship with his young son when he is asked to coach his soccer team.

3 'Killing Them Softly' This grimy underworld drama follows some fools who rip off a mobster's card game and must answer to an uncompromising enforcer (Brad Pitt).

4 'The Collection' The masterminds of the "Saw" franchise reappear with a new Svengali of torture games: a guy who kidnaps a girl and takes her to his elaborate maze of killing machines.

5 'Hitchcock' Sir Anthony Hopkins disappears into the fat suit of Alfred Hitchcock.

6 'Life of Pi' Ang Lee's latest is about a young man adrift at sea with only a tiger for company.

7 'Rise of the Guardians' This animated flick has the mythical figures of our youth band together.

8 'The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2' Edward and Bella are on a mission to save their spawn from the evil Volturi.

9 'Anna Karenina' Keira Knightley stars in this gauzy adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's novel about a married socialite.

10 'Silver Linings Playbook' Bradley Cooper plays an unstable man who spends time with an equally strange woman (Jennifer Lawrence) METRO

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Call in the Christmas Cavalcade!

Chandler Travis says he's a selfish man ◗ But this is the one unselfish thing he does every year ◗ He says it's actually a little bit selfish though

Chandler Travis may wear a hat that says "Bah Humbug," but he actually loves the holidays.

"Christmas is the only holiday that has its own music," says the singer, whose Chandler Travis Philharmonic leads the Christmas Cavalcade. "The bad stuff is pretty wretched. ... But when it's right, it gets you in the spirit of the season."

The sometimes Incredible Casuals frontman should know. For 26 years, he's been making Christmas mix tapes for friends and he writes his own carols, too. He even spoofed Phil Spector's hallowed Christmas album with his own collection, "Another Christmas Gift For You."

This year's Cavalcade cast includes veterans Jennifer Kimball, Merrie Amsterburg, Shaun Wortis and the Philharmonic alums Rikki Bates, Fred Boak, Dinty Child and Bob Pilkington. Somehow, one of Travis' other bands, the Catbirds, snuck onto the bill as well.

"My life is pretty selfish. I don't have kids and I do what I love: making music. So, this is an opportunity to be a little less selfish. Well, I'm still doing what I love, so it's still selfish, I suppose. And I'm doing it with all these great folks."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

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▶ **Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians "Jingle Bells"**
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▶ **The Waitresses "Christmas Wrapping'"**
"Interesting band. They had three or four really great songs that you've probably heard and don't know it's them."

▶ **The Jackson Trio "Love for Christmas"**
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mydating

Get your partner to meet your needs

SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIREIMAGE

▶ We're willing to bet that Will and Kate ask each other nicely.

Quoted

"When you make a request, however, it gives your partner the freedom to make their own decision about the task at hand and lead them to, hopefully, decide to follow through because they want to please you."

Prince William canceled an important appearance on Sunday to stay home with his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, while she dealt with a second round of severe morning sickness. Many times you want your partner to support you, but work or personal needs take priority. So how did she get him to stay home, and how can you get your partner to meet your needs? Sometimes, it is all in how you ask.

You know what it's like to have something demanded of you, right? From the time we were little kids and we were told to wash our hands and look people in the eyes, to our romantic relationships when we're told to get the dry cleaning or to make that dinner reservation, we know it doesn't feel very good. If anything, it puts you on the defensive and makes you not want to do something. So imagine how your partner feels when you tell them to clean the house or take the dog for a walk. Who wants to do something nice for someone when they are forced to do it?

In my book, "What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship," I talk about this as being one of the important rules of engagement. Learn how to make a request rather than a demand. To put it simply, ask nicely. This will tell your partner that you respect them, and will give them the opportunity to make a choice. When you make a demand of your partner, they often feel manipulated and controlled by you because they feel they have to do what you are telling them to do. So rather than being cooperative, they'll be resentful. When you make a request, however, it gives your partner the freedom to make their own decision about the task at hand and lead them to, hopefully, decide to follow through because they want to please you. It gives your partner the chance to take ownership of whatever it is you are asking of them.

In the end, it allows you to have a conversation about what you want to get done, and offers the opportunity to have a give and take. It also lets you move away from a parent-child dynamic and into an equal partnership, which is where every healthy and happy relationship should be.

Shrink Wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

"To put it simply, ask nicely. This will tell your partner that you respect them, and will give them the opportunity to make a choice."

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* **Healthylife.net.** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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The report

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Maine

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▶ Eddy the Yeti will be greeting children this weekend at the Sunday River Ski Resort.

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Number of lifts: 11
Number of trails: 66
In an effort to stock local food shelves for the holidays, Mount Sunapee is hosting Cares & Shares Day this Sunday, Dec. 16. Every skier or snowboarder who brings five nonperishable food items to the ticket window can ski or ride all day for $35. More than a ton of food is collected and distributed to local food shelves each year.

Loon Mountain
www.loonmtn.com
Summit elevation: 3,050 ft.
Vertical drop: 2,100 ft.
Number of lifts: 12
Number of trails: 60
Sunday will be the last chance to participate in Ring in the Winter by donating your wearable winter garments to Loon's donation bin. All garments will be collected and donated to a local charity. While there, see if you can catch Santa — he'll be skiing throughout the resort.

Waterville Valley Resort
www.waterville.com
Summit elevation: 4,004 ft.
Vertical drop: 2,020 ft.
Number of lifts: 12
Number of trails: 52
Rome SDS will be putting on the ninth annual Premature Jibulation on Saturday. Get the 2012-13 season going the right way, with some free swag, some hot dogs and a good ol' jib sesh. All snowboarders are welcome to ride, with a chance to win Rome prizes and a season pass to Waterville Valley.

VERMONT

Jay Peak
www.JayPeakResort.com
Summit elevation: 3,968 ft.
Vertical drop: 2,153 ft.
Number of lifts: 8
Number of trails: 76
Ring in the holidays with the perfect mix of song and brass at Jay Peak on Friday. The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Brass Quintet & Counterpoint Chorale Group will perform live at Hotel Jay. A special VIP wine tasting will be held before the show.

Okemo Mountain Resort
www.okemo.com
Summit elevation: 3,344 ft.
Vertical drop: 2,200 ft.
Number of lifts: 19
Number of trails: 119
The Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge will be held Sunday at Okemo and promises to be a fun, all-day event for the entire family. From a dual giant slalom race to prizes, giveaways and an apres-ski awards party, this is a family party open to all that you won't want to miss. METRO

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holiday gift guide

Gifts for the little ones

1 Your very own winter bear: Try not to squeeze him too hard. L.L. Bean Infants' Hi-Loft Fleece Coveralls, $50, www.llbean.com

2

3

4

We won't judge if you want to put them to bed early and play with these

2. OK — where exactly was this dollhouse when we were growing up? **Modern Dollhouse Collection, $25-$349,** www.landofnod.com

3. We would like to take a day off of work to watch over these adorable characters. **Maileg Newborn Twin Mice in Box, $30,** www.mysweetmuffin.com

4. Down the road, take credit for your niece or nephew's good grades. **Skip Hop Alphabet Zoo Match and Play Puzzle, $25,** www.amazon.com

6. Stick it to them with a festive chocolate pop. **Edward Marc Rudolph Pop, $2,** www.edwardmarc.com

7. Don't forget about your favorite child. **Ralph Lauren Home Holiday Riding Coat, $99,** www.ralphlauren.com

5 Peppa & Friends: Bicycling Together, $7, Toys R Us

6

7

8 An affordable option for their "I love firetrucks" phase. Home Goods vintage riding fire truck, $60, www.homegoods.com

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holiday gift guide

Gifts for ladies in your life

She's the most important person on your list — and the most difficult to shop for No pressure or anything We'll get you started with sweet somethings and sparkling extras

1. Swarovski crystals give this edgy bracelet a glam twist. **Vita Fede Mini Titan Crystal Spike Bracelet, $358,** www.intermixonline.com

2. Better than a pony: Exotic ice cream sandwiches and some old faves — we're looking at you, oatmeal cream — dressed up in macaroon cookies. **Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream Sandwich Collection, $38 for 5,** www.jenis.com

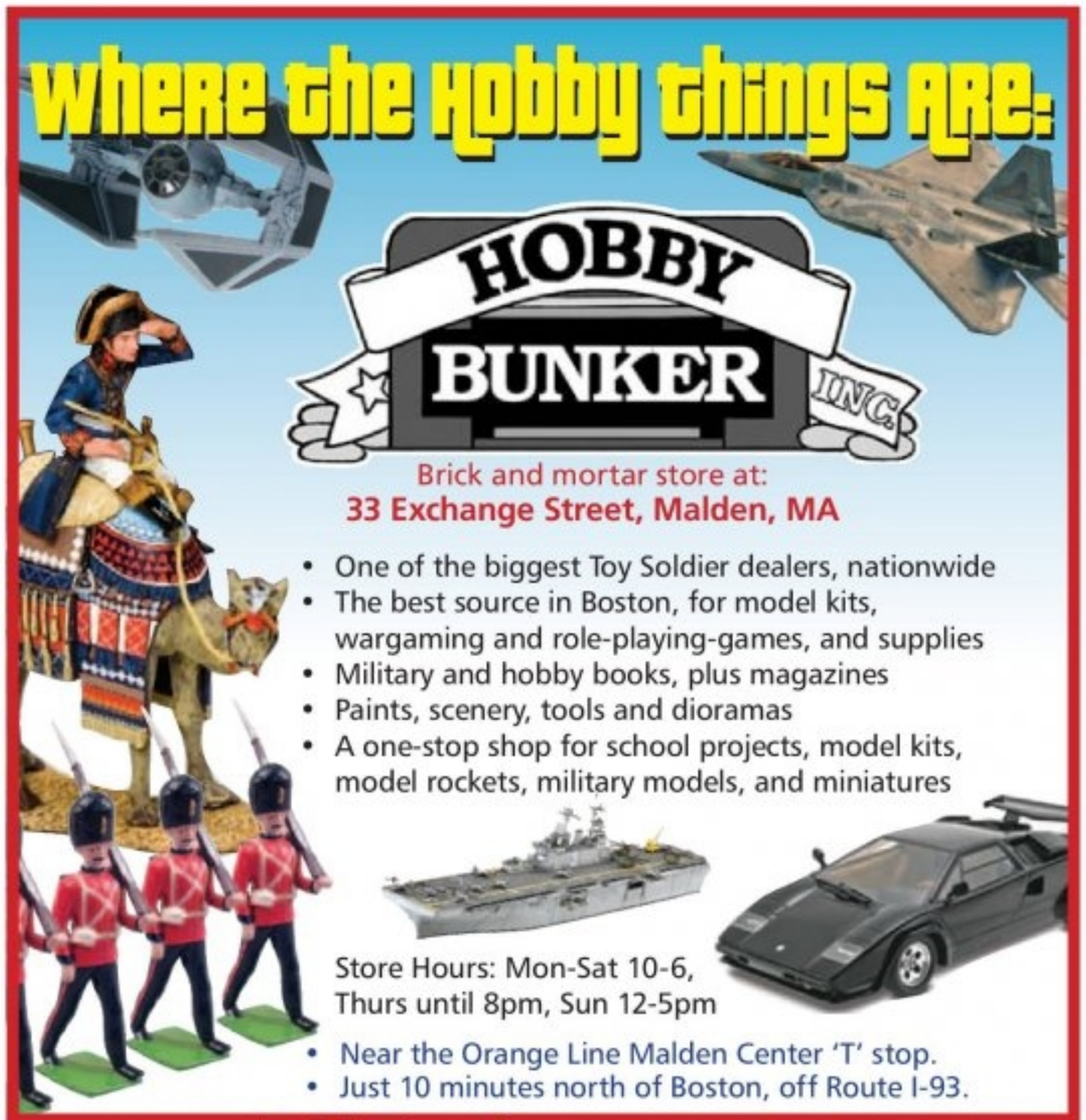
3. Even after a few glasses of wine, you can't miss these. **Kate Spade Paper Gem Coasters, $20,** www.katespade.com

4. MAC's gorgeous holiday compacts just make us want to throw on black eyeliner and four-inch heels. **All For Glamour Touch Up Kit, $40,** www.maccosmetics.com

5. A box this pretty doesn't need any packaging. **Fresh Sake and Seaberry Spa Retreat, $75,** www.fresh.com

6. Techie speakers just aren't her thing, but dance parties are. **Mikal Hameed Gallery Speakers, $400-$650,** www.anthropologie.com

7 This chic mini lipstick provides a full-size impact. AERIN lipstick in Lolabird, $30, www.aerin.com



twinkling this holiday.

For the holidays.
For a lifetime.
E.B. HORN
Jewelers Since 1839

8. Edgy evening bag — a must for the holidays. **Forever 21 Studded Crossbody Bag, $28,** www.forever21.com

9. Serve in style. **Teroforma Anise Double-Sided Serving Board, $40,** www.teroforma.com

10. It's not the bike she'll have to chain. **Sawako Furuno Leopard Helmet, $150,** www.adeline adeline.com

11. The perfect stocking stuffer. **NARS Andy Warhol Nail Set, $35,** www.narscosmetics.com

12. Julia Chiang's signed, limited-edition **All For You Print** says it all. **$125,** www.exhibitiona.com

13. Besides the pure joy of receiving fresh flowers on the regular, this subscription service uploads a weekly video to their site teaching your flower lover how to arrange her blooms. **H.Bloom, $29 per bouquet,** www.hbloom.com

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

twinkling this holiday.

For the holidays.
For a lifetime.
E.B. HORN
Jewelers Since 1839

holiday gift guide

Gifts for the dapper dude

- You love your style aficionado's taste
- And like his cozy sweaters and button-down shirts, these are gifts you'll want to borrow frequently

1. Who are we kidding — this weekender is for both of you. **Joseph Abboud Collection Navy Wool Overnight Bag with Umbrella Holder, $350,** www.josephabboud.com

2. The world's first clear Anejo proudly sits on his bar. **Don Julio 70, $70, Stores nationwide**

3. This handsome knife with a Brazilian rosewood handle gets nautical. **Rosewood Folding Knife, $45,** www.brookfarmgeneralstore.com

4. Let the compliments roll. **Onasis Chester bow tie, $38,** www.onassisclothing.com

5. For when he's not wearing a hoodie. **Massimo Dutti Two-Tone Wool Scarf, $55, www.massimodutti.com**

6. This set of 12 coasters features factoids, recipes and funny expressions all dedicated to his fave drink. **Teroforma Beverage Coasters, $16,** www.teroforma.com

TINA CHADHA

7 Unlike his regular boat shoes, these new Sperry Top-Siders were hand-stitched by artisans in Maine. Prepare to hear that a lot. $300, www.sperrytopsider.com.

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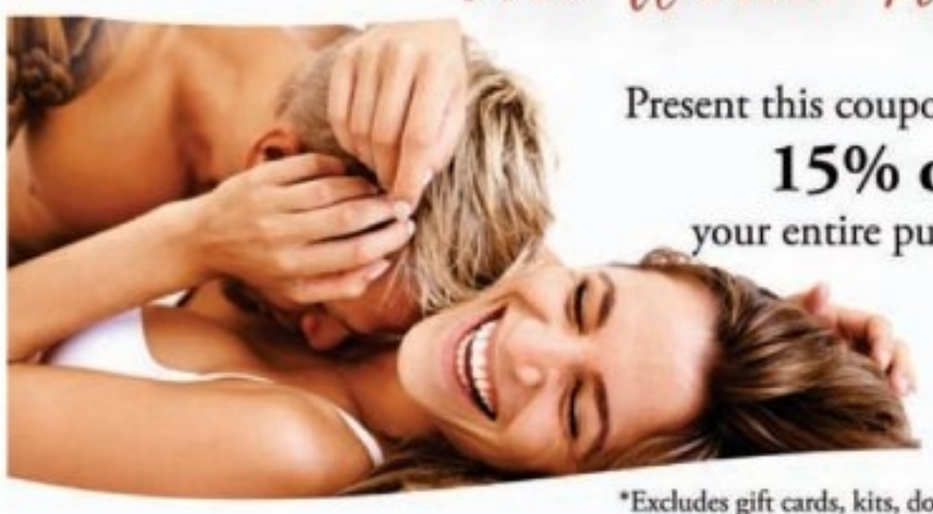

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Letters

letters@metro.us

A public menace on two wheels

RE: "THE UNIVERSAL BLIND SPOT: BICYCLISTS" (METRO, DEC. 11) As much as I have observed drivers being ignorant or arrogant or careless, and I myself have nearly gotten hit by cars (not cycling — walking), I would not say that cyclists are blame-free. I have also nearly gotten hit by ignorant, arrogant and careless cyclists and I have observed cyclists "teasing" traffic, asking for an accident. Furthermore, cyclists very rarely stay off sidewalks. I once saw some guy on a motorcycle going on the sidewalk. By the way, a lot of motorcyclists ought to be put on an island with ignorant drivers and let them deal with each other.

LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

I want to take issue with Liz Papi's letter to the editor. I have seen bicyclists do the following:

1. Go right through a red light (during the pedestrian walk light): You are required BY LAW to stop at a red light and WALK your bike across.

2. Hitch onto cars, trucks and bus bumpers: Suicide, just plain suicide.

3. No helmets: Go visit the local ER — and find the bike accidents. No helmet? Go to the morgue.

4. Not in bike lanes: You have your lane, we have ours; stay out of ours, please.

5. Talking on the phone: I am not even going here. It's just plain stupid.

6. Riding on the sidewalk (endangering pedestrians): Like the road isn't enough excitement, so you have to scare the walkers?

7. Do not obey any of the bicyclists rules — not a one: Get the bicyclist rules manual and read it.

And you wonder WHY they get hit by cars, buses and trucks? Because they are no better than the drivers of these vehicles that hit them who are texting, talking on the phone or otherwise involved in something that has nothing to do with driving and paying attention.

Please don't put all the blame on the drivers — in many cases the bicyclists were wrong.

LINDA CARFAGNA, VIA E-MAIL

TPP deal would cost American jobs

Right now, U.S. negotiators are working behind closed doors in Auckland, New Zealand, on a massive agreement called the Trans-Pacific Partnership that would offshore millions of American jobs and flood us with unsafe imported food.

Corporate interests have special access to the negotiations, while Congress and the public are locked out.

TPP boosters are trying to sell the TPP as a trade agreement that could expand U.S. exports, but recent leaks reveal that actually most of its 29 chapters have little to do with trade and rather would impose limits on government health, safety, labor and environmental standards while granting new rights and powers to large corporations.

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) has introduced the 21st Century Trade Agreements Act to stop rogue trade negotiators from pushing provisions in "free trade" agreements which put the profits of foreign corporations before the wellbeing of the American people.

HOWARD WEISS, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It might be smart to avoid all kinds of financial risk, even if a deal looks like a sure thing. Chances are your conception of it will be overly optimistic.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're more likely to tell others what to do than to do anything yourself. You shouldn't have to be told that this is a sure recipe for dysfunction.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Use a light touch when embellishing a story that you want others to enjoy. If you get in over your head, chances are you'll trip over your own tongue.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Leave that extra cash you've been saving at home if you're going out on the town with your pals. Your ability to prudently manage your resources isn't likely to be at its best.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Don't rely on any spur-of-the-moment promises made to you. No matter how well meant they might be, reality will have other plans for how things play out.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** A situation that has had an adverse effect on your finances is ready to be rectified. Although it won't be soon enough to suit you and your wallet, at least it'll be over.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Be careful not to get drawn into an arrangement where you could lose more than you could gain. If you plunge in anyway, make tracks as soon as you begin to see this happening.

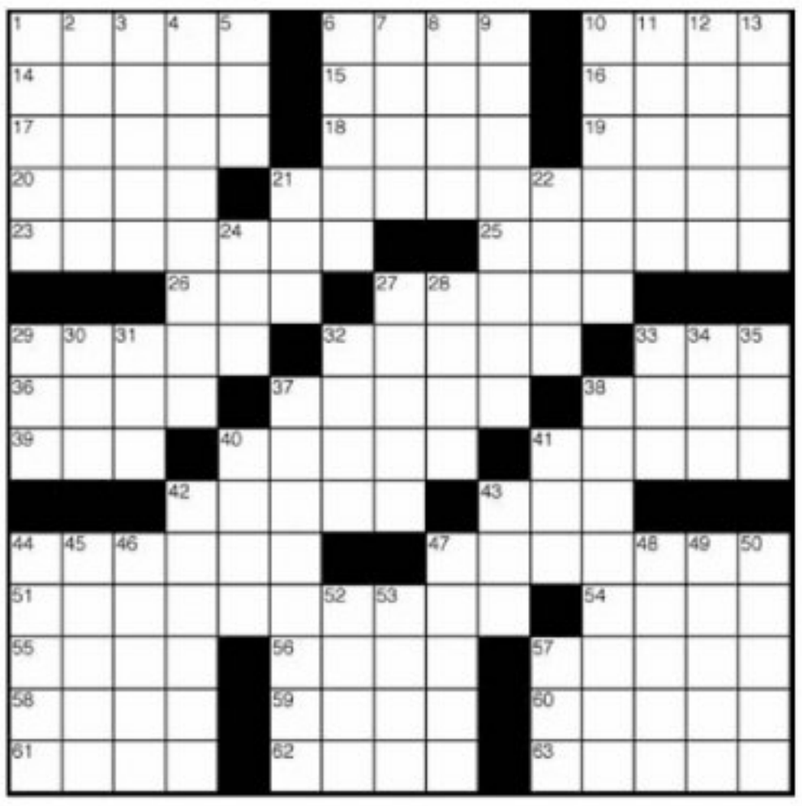
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Don't allow anyone to do your thinking for you, especially in affairs that could affect your reputation and/or status.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't tackle a complicated do-it-yourself project that you lack the experience and/or expertise to take on. This might be one of those times when it's cheaper to pay a professional.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You could have trouble telling the difference between prudence and extravagance. For example, after a dinner, you might keep the leftover salad but throw away the caviar.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Keeping your priorities in proper order could be a difficult assignment at present. Try not to place far more emphasis on pleasurable pursuits than on productive ones.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Usually, you're the type of person who sees things through to a desirable conclusion, yet you might find it difficult to do so at present. Don't call it quits on anything just because the end is in sight. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Referee, slangily
6 Crevice
10 Entranced
14 Stared rudely
15 McClurg of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off"
16 Bushy coif
17 Ph.D. exams
18 Spreadsheet unit
19 Frame of mind
20 Note
21 Tux part
23 Carpet cleaner
25 Bireme or trireme
26 Owed right now
27 Pry open
29 Hard to pin down
32 Eastman invention
33 Tissue layer
36 Battery chemical
37 Zaftig
38 Pump, maybe
39 Guitarist — Paul
40 Less polluted
41 Monarch's time on the throne
42 Rugged country
43 Extinct bird
44 Bye (2 wds.)
47 Daily grind (2 wds.)
51 Mutter, perhaps (2 wds.)
54 Sonny's ex
55 Declaim violently
56 Burnishes
57 Fleece
58 Sandwich cookie
59 No future — —
60 Fluff, as hair
61 Quaker colonist
62 Matures
63 Said further

Down
1 Skyrockets
2 Marsh stalker
3 Accuse
4 Fed the Colt again
5 Circulars
6 Keep happening
7 Footnote term
8 Thin coating
9 Wire
10 Talk aimlessly
11 Run — of (cross)
12 Lying down
13 Winter quaff
21 Passing grade
22 Distress acutely
24 Very, in Veracruz
27 Hunks' dates
28 Dumpster output
29 Coolidge nickname
30 Stretchy bandage
31 Raw recruits
32 Northern Iraqi
33 Sorority letter
34 Captain's journal
35 Ginza gelt
37 Black Sea country
38 Looked high and low
40 Soft color
41 Go bad
42 Chinese dumpling
43 Ticked off
44 Hone a razor
45 Chicago airport
46 Pharaoh's textile
47 Corrodes
48 Down the road
49 Refrain from
50 Goofed
52 Breathing organ
53 Drama prize
57 Depot (abbr.)

1					8			9
	9	4		3	2		5	1
3								2
2	5			7	9			
				2				
			5	4			1	6
9								4
7	4		1	5		9	3	
5			3					7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	2		8				5	
	9	7			5			
5		8			7	3		
		6	7			5		
	3		6	5	4		8	
		2			9	7		
		5	9			1		3
			1			8	7	
	7				3		4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

H	E	F	T	E	D	■	A	T	M	■	C	A	N	T
A	V	E	R	S	E	■	B	O	A	■	A	R	E	A
H	A	B	I	T	S	■	S	A	T	■	P	I	P	S
■	■	■	V	E	I	L	E	D	T	H	R	E	A	T
A	L	F	I	E	■	A	N	Y	■	A	I	S	L	E
N	O	R	A	■	M	R	T	■	I	N	C	■	■	■
T	A	O	■	F	A	D	■	P	O	K	E	F	U	N
I	T	D	■	E	T	E	■	U	T	E	■	A	L	E
C	H	O	W	D	E	R	■	T	A	R	■	R	N	S
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	D	O	S	■	S	C	A	T
S	T	A	I	R	■	O	A	F	■	G	U	E	S	S
C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	F	E	R	N	■	■	■
R	A	N	K	■	A	M	I	■	V	I	S	T	A	S
U	R	A	L	■	V	P	S	■	E	M	E	N	D	S
B	A	S	E	■	S	H	H	■	S	E	T	T	E	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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drinks&music

Tasting the tradition

No nouveau cocktails here Kitchen aims to 'stay close to the classic recipes' The public may finally be ready for drinks that bartenders have been enjoying for a long time

THURSTY

LUKE O'NEIL
TWITTER: @LUKEONEIL47

As we're fond of pointing out in this space, drinking is history. Probably the only thing more inextricably tied to our cultural traditions is eating, because (allegedly) you don't actually need to consume alcohol to survive. They're mindful of both factors at Kitchen, the new South End restaurant and bar time machine from chef/owner Scott Herritt, who knows a thing or two about history from operating the 1885 landmark Marliave.

The sense of the past is illustrated by Herritt's collection of first-edition cookbooks that line the walls behind the neighborly bar and open kitchen, spanning from the 1700s through present day. "He sees them as a snapshot in time," explains bartender Daren Swisher. "I think you can talk about drinks in the same vein." OK, let's do that.

The drinks menu, like the food, calls out classics from throughout the history of the cocktail, with a particular interest in two of the classic tomes of the field: Jerry Thomas' "Bartenders Guide" (1862) and "The Savoy Cocktail Book" (1930).

"Much like the food, we're trying to stay close to the classic recipes — that's why you see the circa dates next to the drinks on our cocktail list," says manager/bartender Billy Pola. It's a taste of tradition, swizzles, juleps, sours and so on that enhances the guests' experience, he says. "I think there was a time at bars where it was a public house, a place to exchange information and talk about things. We've kind of lost that with the sports bar, but people have been kind of bringing it back to knowledge about the history of drinks."

For example?

Both Pola and Swisher point to the Martinez as a formative cocktail, which many consider the grandfather cocktail of the martini. "It's a pretty well-known drink within circles of bartenders, but outside, for our guests, it's a lesser-known one," says Pola. They make it with Ransom Old Tom gin, sweet vermouth, Maraschino and Angostura bitters. "It's one of the best-stirred all-spirits drinks going," says Swisher. "Great balance, texture and nuance. Yes, these have all been done. We aren't reinventing the wheel with our list, but we are doing it right. Some of these drinks have been around for a century — in some cases two centuries. I like the idea of a drink that people have been putting back for five or 10 generations."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

If you go

Kitchen
560 Tremont St.
Boston
617-695-1250
www.kitchenbostonmass.com

Quoted

"Much like the food, we're trying to stay close to the classic recipes — that's why you see the circa dates next to the drinks on our cocktail list." POLA

▶ They aren't "reinventing the wheel" with the cocktail list at Kitchen, but it appears they are "doing it right."

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

Songza

Christmas oldies

Last week we offered a holiday playlist with a reggae slant, but this week we thought we'd give you something more practical, for when your parents are visiting. At **www.songza.com/discover/culture/christmas/christmas-oldies-songza** you'll find a playlist that takes you from Phil Spector's sleigh-bell-ornamented Wall of Sound, to Motown and Stax Records' soulful and funky covers. And you'll even get a version of Stevie Wonder, pictured, playing "Ave Maria," with a signature harmonica solo in the middle that is so inappropriate for the song that it actually works.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to.

food

Big, exotic tastes at BoMA

This isn't BoMA chef Chris Bussell's first attempt at a Boston restaurant ◗ His new South End neighborhood joint adds to his hits ◗ Brunch is next

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

BoMA — the name obviously refers to Boston, Mass., right? Yes and no. The roots of this new South End neighborhood joint's name lie in a Persian word for a safe haven: Boma.

BoMA, which stands in the former Pho Republique space, has a modern American ambiance with exposed brick and wood plank, and dark, almost flat tones contrasting with the fall menu's colorful, exotic flair. Whole shrimp, head and all, take the place of the shrimp cocktail. Filleted trout, which seems to be the new salmon, popping up on several menus around town, is served over saffron couscous flecked with sultanas, and that lesser-used brassica, cauliflower, which also has ancient Arabian origins.

Mushrooms, as it is still fall, are frequent ingredients on BoMA's opening menu. A mushroom risotto combines pine-y sage with piquant balsamic vinegar and delicate shavings of Pecorino Romano, an earthy sheep's milk alternative to Parmesan. The spice-and-cocoa-rubbed buttercup squash is filled with sauteed hen of the woods, a wonderfully meaty mushroom, and served with a wheat berry and corn pilaf. A drizzle of cinnamon cream adds a touch of sweetness and a sprinkling of cranberries gives a splash of color.

On the apps/small plates menu, if the petite tacos stuffed with short-rib, finely shredded cabbage with anejo cheese or the flaky pastry crust pizzette topped with fontina, spinach and wild mushrooms are meant to be shared, forget it. Trust us, it won't happen.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

What's cooking for this season

BoMA chef Chris Bussell is no newcomer to the Boston dining scene. His labors have taken him through Icarus, Hibernia, Butterfish and The Foundry. If what he's done with staples like the BoMA burger — like add luscious french fries cooked in duck fat — is anything to go by, we can't wait to try brunch, which is due to start this month.

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ If these people had to actually share the petite tacos, they might not be smiling so much. It would truly be a "Hunger Games" scenario!

If you go

BoMA Restaurant + Bar
Entrees: $20-$27
1415 Washington St., Boston
617-536-2662
www.bomarestaurant.com

Special Report

THE POWER OF THE BLACK CURRANT

If you need more brain power, a healthier heart, better eye vision, prevention from infection and want to protect your body from inflammation and aging... YOU HAVE NOW FOUND THE SOLUTION

By Andre Doren

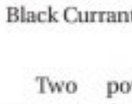
When Greg Quinn and Carolyn Blackwood bought Walnut Grove Farm in 1999, located in New York's beautiful Hudson Valley, Greg wanted to find a crop that would make a difference in people's lives. After some searching for that suitable crop, he stumbled upon the idea of currants. Quinn knew about currants from his restaurant days in Bavaria. Black Currants are very healthy. They have twice the antioxidants of blueberries, 4X the vitamin C of oranges, more potassium than bananas as well as calcium, iron, manganese magnesium and more.

OVERTURNING THE BAN

Since Congress outlawed them in 1911 because they were thought to be the cause of a white pine disease, Currants have remained off the radar of the American consciousness for over a 100 years.

Quinn deduced that if resistant varieties were grown, the problem would be greatly reduced and so he began dialogs with many in the New York State Legislature. With the help of Cornell University plant experts, he was able to convince several States' Senators to sponsor a bill to overturn the ban. The story of his success captured the imagination of farmer and consumer alike. His efforts have been written about on the front page of the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the Associated Press and about 400 newspapers in several languages around the country as well as websites such as CBS Market Watch, and CNN.com (with almost 14 million hits in one day) and he was featured in an article in Readers Digest.

REMARKABLE HEALTH BENEFITS



Published studies show that because they contain a variety of vitamins, especially vitamin C, and minerals, and because of their high content of phenols, especially anthocyanins, which are powerful antioxidants, Black Currants can have remarkable health benefits.

BRAIN HEALTH

Two powerful compounds found in high concentration in Black Currants may help protect our brains against diseases of aging. Preliminary research from the Horticulture and Food Research Institute in New Zealand found that the anthocyanins and polyphenolics found in Black Currants may help protect against Alzheimer's disease. Tuft's University issued a statement that "Black Currants may actually help to thwart Alzheimer's disease."

LIVER HEALTH

An exciting new study shows great promise in the value of Black Currants' anthocyanins in supporting a healthy liver.

HEART HEALTH

A recent study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that subjects who were given a mixture of berries daily (including Black Currants) had a reduction in blood pressure and an increase in good cholesterol (HDL), two factors that can decrease the risk of cardiovascular diseases like heart attack and stroke.

EYE HEALTH

Age related eye disorders, such as Macular Degeneration (AMD), are the number 1 cause of blindness in adults over age 65. Research has shown that certain antioxidants like vitamin C and anthocyanins may support vision health and decrease the risk of age related ophthalmic problems such as cataracts and AMD. Scientists have found that a plant based diet rich in flavonoids, including anthocyanins and quercitin (also found in Black Currants), may play a role in decreasing the degeneration of the macula (the part of the retina that's responsible for central vision) by keeping harmful free radicals from damaging it.

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hot tickets

A MIGHTY MIGHTY LONG TIME

Dicky Barrett on celebrating the Bosstones' 30th anniversary, their 15th Hometown Throwdown and possibly the release of a new album 'I feel like I have things to say still, and I'm anxious to say them'

Like many musicians, Mighty Mighty Bosstones frontman Dicky Barrett pulls double-duty career-wise and, for the past 10 years, has kept his day job as announcer for the late night chat show "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

"Besides the Bosstones, this is the longest job I've had," Barrett says. "I'm very employable. I'm a hard worker and I have a good track record. If I get a job, I hang onto it."

This is certainly true of the bi-coastal Barrett's role in ska-punk originators the Mighty Mighty Bosstones. The Boston band celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2013, and the annual Hometown Throwdown marks its 15th seasonal spree this year.

"I can't let anything go, can I?" jokes Barrett.

Maybe he's a hoarder, then?

"No, God no! Those people infuriate me. I watch that show and scream at them, 'Please throw that away, it's a gum wrapper!'

"Originally," he says, back on subject, "the Throwdown was a reason to make Christmas more special. We were away touring so much and this was a reason to have our feet firmly in Boston. Come Christmastime, we'd be in Boston to celebrate with our favorite fans. I still love being in the city at this time of year. I don't mind Los Angeles; I have an awesome job there. But when I get to Boston, I feel like it's where I belong and where I'm supposed to be. I feel at home."

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones

DREA CATALANO

If you go

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones' Hometown Throwdown 15
With Soul Radics and the Dogmatics
Dec. 29: *with the Bouncing Souls and Moufy*
Dec. 30 and 31: *with Amazing Royal Crowns, Big D and the Kids Table, the Convictions*
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$25-$50, all ages,
800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

How will the Bosstones celebrate their 30th year?

"Ah, I'm so old," Barrett exclaims jovially. "1983 is a difficult time to remember. I was a young man and I did a lot of drinking. In celebration, I promise to do more shows and maybe we'll make a 30th anniversary album. But it's kind of putting it right in people's faces: 'Here's an old band.' But it seems like there's another record in us. I feel like I have things to say still, and I'm anxious to say them. Whether anyone cares to listen is neither here nor there. It's never stopped us before."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Also onstage

▶ J.K. Rowling might be done with Harry Potter, but Harry and the Potters aren't.

Eighth annual Yule Ball
Sunday, 5 p.m.
Middle East Downstairs
480 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$18-$20, 617-864-3278
www.mideastclub.com

Harry and the Potters, not the least bit deterred by the fact that J.K. Rowling has moved on to witty adult crime fiction, host their yearly lit-rock holiday party, joined by Potter Puppet Pals, Jason Anderson, the Whomping Willows and the Home Alones, the last of whom are a tribute not to Harry Potter but to the movie "Home Alone." Yesssss!

ANDREW BENGE/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Killers

The Killers
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Agganis Arena
925 Comm. Ave., Boston
$33-$63, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com
With their style at the outset almost totally lifted from moody '80s synth pop, this Las Vegas band could easily have been a nostalgic flash in the pan like contemporaries the Darkness. But then they brought Bruce Springsteen's influence into the mix, creating a weird, cyborg-esque fusion that shouldn't have worked but somehow did, and here they are now.

Concerts

On sale now

▶ **EOTO**
with Crizzly
Jan. 31
House of Blues

▶ **The Maccabees**
Feb. 15
The Sinclair

▶ **Chris Thile and Brad Mehldau**
April 14
Berklee Performance Center

▶ **Vans Warped Tour 2013**
July 11
The Comcast Center
DCU Center, Worcester

▶ **Imagine Dragons**
Night Visions Tour
with Atlas Genius, The Royal Concept
Feb. 25
House of Blues

▶ **Pat Green**
March 1
House of Blues

▶ **Tenacious D**
Old School Acoustic Style Tour
March 2
House of Blues

▶ **Frightened Rabbit**
April 2
House of Blues

▶ **Lianne La Havas**
April 6
The Sinclair

▶ **Martin Sexton**
April 15
Berklee Performance Center

▶ **Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band**
with the Felice Brothers
May 17
House of Blues

On sale Friday

▶ **Howie Day**
Jan. 12
The Sinclair

▶ **Letlive**
Feb. 4
The Sinclair

▶ **Daughtry and 3 Doors Down**
Feb. 8

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3

In the news

Branch is back
Deion Branch is officially back for the third time this season after the Patriots re-signed him yesterday. The wide receiver was released by the Patriots on Nov. 17 after posting nine catches on the year.

In the news

Sox looking to land Dempster

The Red Sox are in desperate need of another starting pitcher, and it appears right-hander Ryan Dempster may fit the bill.

FOX Sports reported yesterday that Boston was in "serious discussions" with the 35-year-old free-agent hurler, who went 12-8 last season with a 3.38 ERA with the Cubs and Rangers. Dempster had four straight double-digit win seasons for Chicago from 2008 to 2011, with a career-high 17 victories in 2008.

Belichick mum on Gronkowski

The Boston Globe reported this week that tight end Rob Gronkowski would attempt to practice this week and could return for Sunday's game against the 49ers.

"It's day-to-day," Patriots head coach Bill Belichick said about Gronkowski's injury, a broken forearm. He last played Nov. 18. METRO

Metro's NFL power rankings | by Mike Greger

GETTY IMAGES

1 PATRIOTS (10-3)
Who didn't see this coming? Tom Brady went on national TV and showed everyone once again why he'll go down as one of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks. Brady also firmly put himself back in the MVP conversation, while Jerod Mayo introduced himself to the world. Watch out.

2 TEXANS (11-2)
That's two clunkers against MVP-caliber quarterbacks for the Texans, who fell hard to Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. Is this a growing trend in Houston? Or a case of extreme stage fright?

3 BRONCOS (10-3)
Eight straight wins and, assuming they don't start reading their own press clippings, there's only one real potential loss (at Baltimore) left on the schedule. Denver needs the Pats to fall Sunday against the 49ers.

4 FALCONS (11-2)
Maybe Atlanta was overlooking Carolina, with that playoff rematch vs. the Giants on deck. Good teams can't do that. That's a bad loss to a bad, bad Panthers team.

5 49ERS (9-3-1)
Colin Kaepernick is delivering and rewarding Jim Harbaugh's trust. Alex Smith just couldn't have made that 50-yard touchdown run we saw Kaepernick deliver last Sunday against the Dolphins.

6 GIANTS (8-5)
The Giants are 2-1 after their bye, with two blowout wins over high-octane offenses (Green Bay, New Orleans). They must keep momentum going with the 'Skins breathing down their necks.

7 PACKERS (9-4)
Dug themselves out of an early hole and then climbed right out of it, all while frolicking in the snow. All that was missing were sleigh bells and a Grinch named Brett Favre.

8 RAVENS (9-4)
A two-game losing streak isn't usually cause for great concern, yet Baltimore sure made it feel that way after they gave offensive coordinator Cam Cameron a pink slip following Sunday's game.

9 COLTS (9-4)
Don't look now, but rookie Andrew Luck is two wins away — Colts get Houston twice in the next three weeks — from possibly winning a division title. Do you believe in miracles?

10 BEARS (8-5)
This week is their season. If Chicago can't muster a win at home vs. Green Bay, then they might want to start making some tee times. It seems like a decade ago that this team was 7-1.

11 SEAHAWKS (8-5)
Rookie Russell Wilson threw the ball just 13 times, and the Seahawks bludgeoned Arizona, 58-0. If they crash the postseason party, they'll be a scary out. As of right now, they're the five seed in the NFC.

12 REDSKINS (7-6)
It's that kind of year in D.C. In previous seasons, RG3's knee would have been ruined and thrown in an exhibit at the Smithsonian. This year, he might not even miss a start as the 'Skins continue a playoff push.

13 VIKINGS (7-6)
It sounds easy enough: Stack the box and just tackle Adrian Peterson. So how come no one can do it? Peterson is 505 yards away from the single-season rushing record.

14 COWBOYS (7-6)
Could the typically hated Cowboys actually turn into a beloved team? It depends how long they can ride the emotional roller-coaster following the tragic death of Jerry Brown last weekend.

15 BENGALS (7-6)
Such is life in the NFL. One week, Cincy is the sleeper pick in the AFC. The next, they're squarely on the bubble. Beating Pittsburgh and Baltimore to close out the season would help matters.

16 STEELERS (7-6)
The Steelers won at Cincy back on Oct. 21 but will need to sweep the season series with the orange and black two days before Christmas to lock up a playoff spot.

17 RAMS (6-6)
Believe it or not, St. Louis is currently one of the hotter teams in football. Granted, two of their three victories in this three-game win streak came against the Cardinals and Bills, but there is improvement here.

18 BUCCANEERS (6-7)
Tampa Bay is now reeling, as it was dealt its worst loss of the year last Sunday against the hapless Eagles. They will have to beat the Saints, Rams and Falcons down the stretch just to get to 9-7.

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